

REMARKS

Claims 11-18 are pending in this application. By the Office Action, claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, and claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 13, 19, and 20 contain allowable subject matter, and claims 16-18 are allowed. By this Amendment, claims 11 and 14 are amended to further clarify the subject matter being claimed, and claims 19 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in cancelled claims 19 and 20. Thus, no new matter is added by the above amendments. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Eshete in the February 10, 2009 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The Office Action maintains the previous rejection of claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,494,007 to Schroeder et al. ("Schroeder"), and the previous rejection of claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Schroeder. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Without agreeing with or acquiescing to the rejection, Applicants note that independent claims 11 and 14 have been amended to substantially incorporate allowable subject matter from claims 19 and 20, respectively. Applicants submit that Schroeder fails to disclose or render obvious the claimed valve gear "wherein the rocking control means controls the rotating speed of the cam in the rocking drive mode such that a target working angle of the valve is realized and a target of a time area obtained by integrating a lift amount

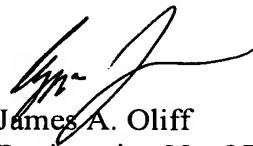
of the valve is realized" and "wherein the forward rotating control means changes the rotating speed of the cam in the forward rotating drive mode such that a target working angle of the valve is realized and a target of a time area obtained by integrating lift amount of the valve is realized," as recited in claims 11 and 14. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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